

Millstone Township School District

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Dear Millstone Families,

Sadly, we have once again been subjected to the alarming and concerning news of a shooting taking place in one of our nation's schools. While we try to shield our children from the worst details, there is a good chance that they may be exposed to the news through social media, peers, television, and/or overhearing adults' conversations. In addition, there is no way denying the reality of these situations as our children now practice lockdown drills as part of their school days.

Even though our children may appear to be fine on the exterior, there is the possibility that they are struggling with emotions on the inside. They may be wondering if something like the news they are hearing could happen to them, or their loved ones. They may also be feeling anxious or worried without even being able to identify the exact cause. As you know, all of our schools have guidance counselors, nurses, and other mental health professional you and your children can turn to for help, if needed. You can also remind your child that these resources are available to them. If you or your child would like to speak to a member of our counseling team, here is a list of contacts for each of the schools:

Primary School: Mr. Suleski: 732-786-0950 ext. 40007 or jsuleski@millstone.k12.nj.us

Elementary School: Ms. Picaroni: 732-786-0950 ext. 30008 or lpicaroni@millstone.k12.nj.us

Middle School: Ms. Acker: 732-786-0950 ext. 11430 or ackerd@millstone.k12.nj.us and

Ms. Tomlinson: 732-786-0950 ext. 11440 or gtomlinson@millstone.k12.nj.us

You may also find useful information by clicking on the following links:

[How to Talk to Children About Difficult News](#)

[How To Talk To Kids About Tragedies In The Media](#)

[Coping with Violence](#)

Making decisions about discussing these events with your children is not easy. You know them best and understand what is appropriate for them individually based on age and maturity level. I'm confident you'll find the right balance to suit their personal needs.

While grappling with these issues yourself, please rest assured that the Board and I are committed to assessing and enhancing as needed our schools' safety and security. We are continually discussing all areas of this complicated issue including an ongoing review of policies, procedures, protocols, and practices as well as facility upgrades and expanded partnerships with law enforcement officials. Please understand, however, that while some of our work may be visible and easily recognizable, much of it will be discreet and remain confidential. That is purposeful in order to maintain the integrity of our security plans. As always, please reach out if you have any questions.

All the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Huss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Chris Huss
Superintendent of Schools